CLAIMS

1. A security system for use in a plurality of electronic apparatuses including a first electronic apparatus and a second electronic apparatus connected to each other via an apparatus control line,

wherein the second electronic apparatus comprises second storage means for previously storing a password, and

wherein the first electronic apparatus comprises:

first storage means for previously storing the password; and

control means for requesting the second electronic apparatus to transmit the password stored in the second storage means at activation of the first electronic apparatus, receiving the password from the second electronic apparatus, comparing the received password with the password stored in the first storage means, and executing a security function so as to start an operation of the first electronic apparatus when the passwords coincide with each other.

2. The security system as claimed in Claim 1,

wherein the control means compares the received password with the password stored in the first storage means, and executes the security function so as to stop the operation of the first electronic apparatus when the passwords do not coincide with each other.

3. The security system as claimed in Claim 1,

wherein the first electronic apparatus further comprises:

display means for displaying a message to a user; and

input means for inputting the password, and

wherein the control means compares the received password with the password stored in the first storage means, displays a request of inputting the password to a user on the display means when the passwords do not coincide with each other, compares the password inputted by the user using the input means with the password stored in the first storage means, and starts the operation of the first electronic apparatus when the passwords coincide with each other.

4. The security system as claimed in Claim 3,

wherein the control means compares the password inputted by the user with the password stored in the first storage means, and stops the operation of the first electronic apparatus when the passwords do not coincide with each other.

5. The security system as claimed in Claim 3,

wherein the control means compares the password inputted by the user a predetermined number of times of more than two with the password stored in the first storage means, and stops the operation of the first electronic apparatus when the passwords do not coincide with each other.

6. The security system as claimed in any one of Claims 3 to 5,

wherein the first electronic apparatus further comprises third storage means for previously storing a special password other than the password, and

wherein the control means compares the inputted password with the special password stored in the third storage means, and starts the operation of the first electronic apparatus when the passwords coincide

with each other.

7. The security system as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 6, wherein the first electronic apparatus further comprises:

first detecting means for detecting whether or not the second electronic apparatus is connected to the first electronic apparatus via the apparatus control line; and

second detecting means for detecting whether or not the second electronic apparatus has the security function using a control signal of the apparatus control line when the first detecting means detects that the second electronic apparatus is connected to the first electronic apparatus, and

wherein the control means executes the processings of the first detecting means and the second detecting means during operation of the first electronic apparatus.

8. The security system as claimed in Claim 7,

wherein the control means stops the processing of the security function, and starts an ordinary operation of the first electronic apparatus when the first detecting means detects that the second electronic apparatus is not connected to the first electronic apparatus.

9. The security system as claimed in Claim 8,

wherein the control means stops the processing of the security function, and starts the ordinary operation of the first electronic apparatus when the second detecting means detects that the second electronic apparatus does not have the security function.

10. A first electronic apparatus provided in a security system

for use in a plurality of electronic apparatuses including a first electronic apparatus and a second electronic apparatus connected to each other via an apparatus control line,

wherein the second electronic apparatus comprises second storage means for previously storing a password, and

wherein the first electronic apparatus comprises:

first storage means for previously storing the password; and

control means for requesting the second electronic apparatus to transmit the password stored in the second storage means, receiving the password from the second electronic apparatus when the first electronic apparatus is activated or started up, comparing the received password with the password stored in the first storage means, and executing a security function so as to start an operation of the first electronic apparatus when the passwords coincide with each other.

11. The electronic apparatus for a security system as claimed in Claim 10,

wherein the control means compares the received password with the password stored in the first storage means, and executes the security function so as to stop the operation of the first electronic apparatus when the passwords do not coincide with each other.

12. The electronic apparatus for a security system as claimed in Claim 10,

wherein the first electronic apparatus further comprises:

display means for displaying a message to a user; and

input means for inputting the password, and

wherein the control means compares the received password with the password stored in the first storage means, displays a request of inputting the password to a user on the display means when the passwords do not coincide with each other, compares the password inputted by the user using the input means with the password stored in the first storage means, and starts the operation of the first electronic apparatus when the passwords coincide with each other.

13. The electronic apparatus for a security system as claimed in Claim 12,

wherein the control means compares the password inputted by the user with the password stored in the first storage means, and stops the operation of the first electronic apparatus when the passwords do not coincide with each other.

14. The electronic apparatus for a security system as claimed in Claim 12,

wherein the control means compares the password inputted by the user a predetermined number of times of more than two with the password stored in the first storage means, and stops the operation of the first electronic apparatus when the passwords do not coincide with each other.

15. The electronic apparatus for a security system as claimed in any one of Claims 12 to 14,

wherein the first electronic apparatus further comprises third storage means for previously storing a special password other than the password, and

wherein the control means compares the inputted password with the special password stored in the third storage means, and starts the operation of the first electronic apparatus when the passwords coincide with each other.

16. The electronic apparatus for a security system as claimed in any one of Claims 10 to 15,

wherein the first electronic apparatus further comprises:

first detecting means for detecting whether or not the second electronic apparatus is connected to the first electronic apparatus via the apparatus control line; and

second detecting means for detecting whether or not the second electronic apparatus has the security function using a control signal of the apparatus control line when the first detecting means detects that the second electronic apparatus is connected to the first electronic apparatus, and

wherein the control means executes the processings of the first detecting means and the second detecting means during activation of the first electronic apparatus.

17. The electronic apparatus for a security system as claimed in Claim 16,

wherein the control means stops the processing of the security function, and starts an ordinary operation of the first electronic apparatus when the first detecting means detects that the second electronic apparatus is not connected to the first electronic apparatus.

18. The electronic apparatus for a security system as claimed

in Claim 17,

wherein the control means stops the processing of the security function, and starts the ordinary operation of the first electronic apparatus when the second detecting means detects that the second electronic apparatus does not have the security function.